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Light," *Antidotium contra Tyrannidem Peccati, Gaudeamus Igitur, Integer Vitae, Lauriger Horatius*, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Northwestern University Hymn" (with music), *Nonne Dormis* (a round for four voices, with music).

F. J. MILLER

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Dream in Homer and Greek Tragedy. By WILLIAM STEWART MESSER, Ph.D. New York: Columbia University Press. Pp. 105. \$1.25 net.

In view of the number of dreams scattered through classical literature and of the striking function which they often fulfil in the economy of the plot, it seems strange that we have hitherto had no comprehensive study of them as artistic devices, used with varying success and in various ways by many writers. Like the *deus ex machina*, anagnorisis, divination, and many other motifs, for the most part introduced into literature as early as Homer, the dream has had a long, artistic career, which has at last found a critic and historian. In this essay we have but the first instalment of a larger work; for the author hopes to publish soon other studies on the dream, not only in its literary, but also in its non-literary, aspects. Here he deals with the dream solely "as an originating cause or directing principle of the action in poem or play." Beginning with the dream sent by Zeus in *Iliad B*—which seems in a way the father of dreams in classical literature—he takes up in turn the important dreams in Epos and Tragedy, discusses their character, and defines the part they play in the movement of the plot. For the present he refuses to be led astray into the discussion of psychological, philosophical, or other theories of dreams. Matters of this sort he relegates to footnotes, in several of which are outlined discussions which arouse a lively interest in the future investigations which are promised. It is to be hoped that these further studies may appear at an early date and that they may all be as clear and sane as this essay.

H. C. F. SMITH

AMHERST COLLEGE

The Greek Tradition. Essays in the Reconstruction of Ancient Thought. By J. A. K. THOMSON. New York: The Macmillan Co., n.d. (1915). 12mo, pp. xiv+248.

Professor Gilbert Murray, in an introductory note to this volume, mentions a reviewer of Mr. Thomson's earlier *Studies in the Odyssey*, "who, after four lines of earnest misdescription, concluded by expressing his grief that any university had published such a book." The Britons are used, if not hardened, to the irresponsible vagaries of a governmental censor of plays (we have just been reading again Christopher North's amusing account of that official in his ancient day). Evidently the reviewer aforesaid would like to see established in the scholastic field a similar infallible autocrat to lead erring delegates

and syndics in the way they should go. If Professor Murray had by any unhappy chance been appointed to the post, the *Studies in the Odyssey* would have gone through with the same applause with which he greets this book, and his judgment would have been *Tarpa latrante*, indeed, but *dis approbantibus*.

The present volume is composed of eight essays and a little and charming interpretative drama. They find their unity under the book-title through the relation of each to the constant vision of the Hellenic *ἥθος* in its varied spheres of activity. They can be read with keen interest even by one who knows little or nothing of Greek or Latin at first-hand, if he but have an eye to see and a heart to understand. But let him beware: for their sure effect will be to make him eager to emulate old Cato. They will help him to comprehend why ancient Greece yet lives—vividly, gloriously—instead of being, as he may have been inclined to think her, as the dust of our simian forefathers. Mr. Thomson does not make old things live again, like the dead bones in the valley; he but makes us see them as they are, forever deathless in compelling charm and beauty.

His chapters are: "On an Old Map"; "Thucydides"; "Greek Country Life"; "Mother and Daughter" (the little drama, on the finding of Persephone); "Alcestis and Her Hero"; "A Note on Greek Simplicity"; "Lucretius"; "The Springs of Poetry"; "Some Thoughts on Translation." There is also a note on authorities, and a sufficient index. Praised be the author's name for his excellent purpose admirably achieved.

E. T. M.

Latin Reader. Nature Study and Easy Stories for Sight Reading during the First Year in Latin. By A. B. REYNOLDS. New York: D. C. Heath & Co., 1918. Pp. xxiv+349.

The author's aim in this reader is to present to the student, at the very outset of his Latin study, connected paragraphs, made up of words from the usual high school authors, and dealing with subjects with which all high school pupils are more or less familiar. The earlier paragraphs contain readings in nature-study, with such titles as *De Tellure*, *De Sole*, and *De Ventis*. These are followed by a section on "Life in Ancient Italy," in which the pupil is introduced to two schoolboys in ancient Arpinum and follows them in their various activities at school and at play, at home and in travel. The readings are concluded by a story entitled *Arminius Puer Suebus*, in which a little romance is interwoven into a simplified narrative of some of Caesar's campaigns. An appendix contains forms, principles of syntax, and exercises in composition.

From the very nature of the author's aim, the book is based on the inductive method and consequently is not free from the defects which seem to be inherent in that method. Chief among these is a lack of clearness and simplicity. The pupil is plunged into indirect discourse in the first lesson and must pick up his forms piecemeal, and he is burdened with such hypothetical forms as *niguis* (for *nix*) and the development of *fertur* through *fertise*, *fertere*, *fertur*,